Maryland Numismatist

Early Modern Japanese Coins

Photo courtesy Wikipedia

Dues are due! Renewal form page 21.

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http://mdstatenumisassn.org

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Table of Contents

Officer Listing	2
President's Message	4
MSNA Exhibit Results	6
PAN Exhibit Results	7
Japan’s Early Modern Coinage	8
Member Club Profile – MD TAMS	12
Local News	16
What's Your Sign? (Zodiac-themed medals and coins)	18
Membership Renewal and Application	21
Coin Show Dates	22
Club Member Listing	23
Advertising Rates	23

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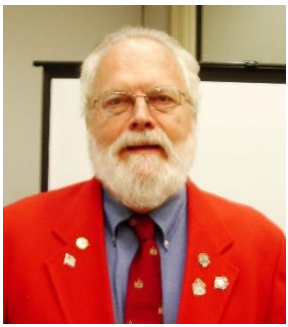
President's Message



On Thursday 16 March, we held the MSNA Board meeting. There are several items of note from this session. I am pleased to report that after many years of unaccountability, we now have a great handle on the MSNA property inventory. We have cleaned house so to speak and have donated some no longer useful material to charities and have given some to recycling. The material remaining has been inventoried at a macro level and in cases where it makes sense, we are digging deeper. The remaining material is mostly unsold MSNA souvenirs such as souvenir sheets, medals, elongated coins, woods, and encased coins. I want to thank all members who helped MSNA get this huge task completed.

At the meeting, the Board decided to add a new feature to our very prestigious publication, the MSNA Numismatist. Starting now, we are asking all 15 of our MSNA Member Clubs to take the opportunity to introduce themselves to the hobby community to include both current and future collectors. Based on availability, in each future issue, we will publish a Member Club Profile. Each Member Club will be allowed and encouraged to write a profile to introduce folks to their club by providing some history and details about their goals and when and where they meet. The Maryland Token and Medal Society (MD TAMS) has volunteered to provide the first Member Club Profile. Watch for their profile. This is a rare opportunity to share your valuable club information.

The March Whitman show was a chance for MSNA to provide our yearly numismatic exhibits. I hope you took the time to look at the exhibits while at the show. Beside the normal exhibits, I want to thank our Treasurer, Simcha Kuritzky who recently took over as Exhibit Chairman when Bryce Doxzon was unable to continue in this role. Simcha is also to be commended as he made great use of MSNA's John B. Henry collection. He put together a super exhibit of US Colonial Notes from the collection. It is great to see our holdings being put to such great educational use. Also of note is the Tribute Board in the exhibit area that Simcha set up to honor our long-time member, officer and Exhibit Chair, Bryce Doxzon. *(continued on page 6)*

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- Act as personal representative for any numismatic transaction at a maximum commission of 10%
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- Assist in the orderly disposition of holdings at current values

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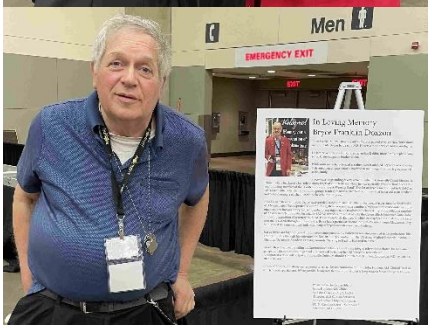
MSNA Exhibit Results

MSNA Editor and Treasurer Simcha Kuritzky won first place for his exhibit "Engraved Coins as Judeo-Christian or Neo-Pagan Amulets." This same exhibit won Best of Show at the 2007 National Money Show in Charlotte. Presenting the gold tenth-ounce eagle is MSNA Past President Jack Schadegg.

Terry Bryan won second place (a tenth ounce platinum American eagle) with his exhibit "New Sweden Numismatics," which focused on coins and medals showing the ship *Kalmar Nyckel*.



Gerald Grzenda won third place (a twentieth ounce gold Canadian maple leaf) with his exhibit "A Bomber Pilot's Medals." He is shown here standing next to the memorial poster for Bryce Doxzon put up by Whitman.

(President's Message continued)

Simcha's contributions to MSNA"s hobby education mission are vast and greatly appreciated.

Later this year, MSNA is having its next election. Members interested in serving as an officer, please inform MSNA at our PO Box or inform any Board member ASAP. I will be finishing my third stint as MSNA President and it has been my honor to serve such a great organization. My two years are up so it is your turn.

PAN Exhibit Results

MSNA Editor and Treasurer Simcha Kuritzky won first place in exonumia for his exhibit "Boy for Sale? Middle Eastern Ingots for *Pidyon HaBen*," and second place in world coins for "Give Me That Old-Time *Alef-Beyt*! Paleo-Hebrew on Modern Israel Money."

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CoinZip

Japan's Early Modern Coinage

By Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

Japan was a traditional Asian country well into the Nineteenth Century. Their coinage system was based on China's, and sometimes Chinese coins were imported for local use. Most people used simple copper cash coins with a square hole for binding into large groups for major purchases, but merchants used a variety of silver and gold ingots, some rectangular, some oblong, and some even ovals with India ink inscriptions. While trade with Portugal was initiated in the 1500s, Japan closed the country to foreigners in 1639, and only reluctantly reopened in 1854 when U.S. ships showed they had greater fire power than the Japanese.

The Japanese looked around Asia and saw that Europeans, mostly British and French, but also Dutch and Portuguese, were colonizing their neighbors and forcing trade terms favorable to the Europeans. Even the once-powerful China was forced to submit to European demands. The Japanese realized they needed to modernize quickly if they were to avoid a similar fate.

Emperor Meiji ascended the Chrysanthemum Throne in 1867, but his regnal year started in 1868 when the medieval Shogunate was dismantled. In year 3 (1870 CE, all Japanese coins are dated in the year of the current emperor), Japan adopted a modern coinage system. The subsidiary silver coins were based on the metric system, with the 5, 10, 20, and 50 sen coins weighing 1.25, 2.5, 5, and 12.5 grams of .800 fine silver. The yen (100 sen) was heavier by over 20%, being 26.96 grams of .900 fine silver. Gold coins included the 1, 2, 5, 10, and 20 yen; their weights were based on 60 sen to one gram of .900 fine gold. These coins had a dragon on the obverse, and sunburst on the reverse (the silver coins surrounded the sunburst with a wreath while the gold coins flanked it with banners), except for the smallest coins (silver 5 sen and gold yen) which just had the denomination instead of a dragon. The silver yen was clearly meant to

circulate abroad while the smaller coins were for use in Japan. The coin inscriptions were exclusively in Japanese. In year 6 (1873), the coinage system was overhauled, and the denomination in Latin characters (Romanji) were added. Copper half, one, and two sen were issued to the same standard of 7.15 grams of copper per sen, but the rin (one-tenth sen) was 12% heavier at .91 grams. The silver coin designs were standardized with the denomination in a wreath replacing the sunburst, and the weights were raised to match that of the yen, except the subsidiary coins were still issued in .800 fine silver while the yen was .900 fine. The gold coinage was not changed except the yen and two yen were issued on thicker, smaller planchets (weight remained unchanged). The silver yen was less than 1% heavier than the U.S. equivalent, while the gold coins were 3% lighter.

Japan clearly was basing their coinage on the U.S., even if the weights weren't identical. In years 8-10 (1875-7), Japan issued a trade dollar with the identical composition of the U.S. trade dollar (420 grains of .900 fine silver), though the design was the same as the yen with the addition of the metal content in English. In year 22 (1889), Japan abandoned the silver 5 sen in favor of a 4.67 gram copper-nickel coin with a large Japanese 5 on the obverse and a chrysanthemum and Romanji denomination on the reverse.

By this time, some denominations had been phased out. The rin and 2 sen were last issued for circulation in year 17 (1884), and the half sen in year 21 (1888). The gold one and two yen were last issued in year 13 (1880).

In year 30 (1897), the design changed to a sunburst obverse and wreathed denomination in Japanese on the reverse for the sen, 5 sen, 5 yen, 10 yen, and 20 yen, though the gold coin weights were reduced by half. It wasn't until year 40 (1907) that the silver 10, 20, and 50 sen changed over to the sunburst/denomination design, with a 25% reduction in pure silver content. However, the silver yen retained its original silver content.

In 1912, Meiji died and was succeeded by his son Taisho. Initially, coinage of copper sen, silver 10 and 50 sen, silver yen, and gold 5 and 20 yen continued at the same weights and designs. In year 5 (1916), while Japan was fighting alongside the Allies in the Great War, a new smaller 5 rin (half sen) and one sen were issued with a new design: a paulownia crest with cherry blossoms on the obverse and flowery wreathed denomination on the reverse. The Romanji was removed from the coins. A few years later, the 5 and 10 sen coins switched to a holed copper-nickel with five paulownia flowers at bottom and a chrysanthemum at top, while the silver 50 sen lost more than half of its silver value, and the reverse denomination were now flanked by two phoenixes. Gold 5 yen coins were issued in year 13 (1924) while 20 yen were issued every year until year 9 (1920). After Taisho's death in 1926, his son Emperor Showa ascended the throne. Coinage continued using essentially the same designs for the copper sen, copper-nickel 5 and 10 sen, and silver 50 sen into the 1930s. Gold 5 yen were issued in year 5 (1930) and 20 yen in years 5 and 6 (1930-1).

After Japan went to war with China in 1931, major changes were made to coins, and weights and compositions started to change rapidly in the middle modern coinage. By war's end, the late modern coinage began and the sen denominations were quickly phased out. The yen has been the smallest denomination coined since 1949.

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[Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles profiling the various member clubs of MSNA.]

MEMBER CLUB PROFILE
MARYLAND TOKEN AND MEDAL SOCIETY (MD TAMS)

In early 1979, a group of token and medal collectors living in Maryland started corresponding about forming a club of like-minded collectors in the state of Maryland. On April 22, 1979, a meeting was held at the Maryland State Numismatic Association (MSNA) convention at the Sheraton Inn in New Carrollton, and the Maryland Token and Medal Society, Inc. (MD TAMS) was founded.

From the very beginning, MD TAMS placed a strong emphasis on education and documenting Maryland exonumia. Two of the first goals of the Society were to publish a quarterly journal covering a wide range of items of interest to token and medal collectors, and to publish a catalog of all known Maryland merchant tokens.

In the autumn of 1979, the first issue of the *Maryland TAMS Journal* was issued to each member. In addition to a number of articles on Maryland exonumia, each quarterly issue features free to members classified ads, membership news, and society information and events. Many continuing and aperiodic series developed over the years on mavericks, wooden nickels, elongated coins, and pickers checks from Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The *Journal* became the primary communications vehicle of the Society, and each member in good standing receives a copy. There are normally four issues each calendar year. An extra issue was added during each of the two pandemic years to ensure members stayed engaged in the hobby while more confined.

Articles on all types of exonumia are welcomed for publication. Some recent editions included, but were not limited to, military challenge coins, and poker chips. Annually, MD TAMS presents the A. Vernon Taylor Memorial Literary Award for those articles judged worthy by a panel of judges. This award is named after the first *Journal* editor. In addition, a New Author Award is presented, as appropriate, to encourage members to try their hand at writing for the club's publication.

In 1986, MD TAMS realized its second goal when it published *Maryland Merchant Tokens*, authored by member David E. Schenkman. This 225 page hard-cover catalog lists over 1,500 merchant tokens with over 400 photographs. The national Token and Medal Society (TAMS) awarded this book its gold Sandra Rae Mishler Cataloging Award.

In 1994, MD TAMS published the monograph *Seafood and Cannery Tokens of Dorchester County, Maryland* by Moses D. Moore. Continuing its goal of documenting Maryland exonumia, reference catalogs and supplements to the *Maryland TAMS Journal* included tokens issued by the Maryland Amusement Token Collectors Association (MATCA), Bonnie Blink Corn Husking Pennies 1984-1999 (and the 2000-2015 update by Joe Burford), and *Municipal Trade Tokens of Maryland* by Millard W. Hajek. Other projects published to date include *Maryland Encased Coins* by Millard W. Hajek, *Elongated Coins of Maryland* by Joe Burford (updated three times), *Maryland Amusement Tokens* by Millard W. Hajek, *Maryland Wooden Nickels* by Joe Burford (plus five separate updates), *Maryland Play Money* by Jane Sears, *Maryland Food Stamp Change Tokens* by Edward L. Craig, and the *Numismatic Items of Phil W. and John M. Greenslet*.

For many years, the Maryland State Numismatic Association sponsored educational numismatic exhibits, first at their own conventions and annual summer shows, and later at the Atlantic Rarities Coin Exposition (ARCE) and then at the Whitman Coin Exposition. MD TAMS sponsors the Millard W. Hajek Award for the best display of Maryland tokens and medals exhibited at these shows in honor of the Society's first president, who was a prolific exhibitor.

MD TAMS is a life member club of both the American Numismatic Association (ANA C-126478) and the Maryland State Numismatic Association (MSNA LMC 3). MD TAMS has served as a local host club for the 2003 ANA annual convention in Baltimore, and as an honorary host club for the 2008 ANA Baltimore Convention. Two MD TAMS members (William Lenz and Edward Craig) have served as General Chairman of an ANA Convention in Baltimore.

MD TAMS partnered with the Baltimore Coin Club (BCC) and the Catonsville Coin Club (CCC) in a numismatic venture and organization called BANC (Baltimore Area Numismatic Coalition) which ran three local Baltimore coin shows each year for 16 years. A Maryland Token and Medal Society member served as BANC Director and Bourse

Chairman for BANC's first 15 years (45 shows). Edward L. Craig served for 11 years, Joseph Burford and William Stratemeyer for two years each. MD TAMS also provided many workers for the BANC shows.

MD TAMS meets in conjunction with major coin shows throughout the State of Maryland. Currently, they meet three times a year at the Whitman Coin Show at the Baltimore Convention Center. Occasionally, a meeting is held at a significant historical or educational site. Most meetings feature an educational presentation, a show and tell segment, and an auction. The annual meeting is usually the meeting held in the summer at the Whitman Show. The annual meeting is a gala affair featuring free souvenirs, presentation of awards, and the election of officers. MD TAMS also normally holds one or two annual swap meets where members set up a bourse in a casual and relaxed atmosphere, allowing members to buy, sell or trade items, and share in the fellowship and camaraderie of the hobby.

MD TAMS members have been quite active in a number of other numismatic organizations since its founding including, but not limited to, the following: American Numismatic Association (ANA), Maryland State Numismatic Association (MSNA), The Elongated Collectors (TEC), Civil War Token Society (CWTS), Early American Coppers (EAC), Associated Collectors of Encased (ACE), American Play Money Society (APMS), Token and Medal Society (TAMS), and National Association of Token Collectors Association (NATCA). In addition, MD TAMS members have had articles published in *The Numismatist* (ANA), *TAMS Journal* (TAMS), *The Civil War Token Society* (CWTS), *TEC News*, *American Play Money Society Newsletter*, *Coin World*, and *Numismatic News*. At least 14 MD TAMS members have also published their own separate hobby-related books.

MD TAMS offers membership to those collectors interested in all aspects of exonumia. The collecting interests of its current membership roster is wide and varied, including canning tokens, assay medals, elongated coins, picker checks, berry tickets, transportation tokens, inaugural medals, civil war tokens, masonic chapter pennies, counter-marks, hard times tokens, casino/poker chips, dog tags, Depression scrip, military tokens and POGS, DAV tags, and game play money. Interests are not limited to items from Maryland only. Annual dues for the society are $20 with the dues year running from 1 April through 31 March. Members joining after 1 October only pay half of the annual dues or $10. One can mail dues to P. O. Box 28253, Parkville, MD 21234. The application can also be found on MDTAMS.org.

Local News

In February, the **Montgomery County Coin Club** held a demonstration of the automated external defibrillator (AED) devices at the Schweinhaut Center where they meet. In March, President **Jack Schadegg** presented a talk on Alexander Hamilton's bimetallic standard, and in May he spoke on coins and exonumia of the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. The April meeting featured a guest speaker from FUN, **Tony Bonaro**, on Amazing Women on American Coins 1793–2023.

The **Washington Numismatic Society's** March meeting featured President **Simcha Kuritzky's** talk on multi-lingual coins and banknotes. Newman Numismatic Portal video on topical world coins was shown at the April meeting, and member **Richard Rhoads** spoke on U.S. mints at the May meeting. The June 20 meeting will be the semi-annual pot-luck dinner.

Coin Club Meeting Calendar (most months)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
First				Baltimore
Second	Cambridge, Colonial	Montgomery, West Maryland	Belmar, MR, Bowie, Catonsville	
Third	Colonial (sometimes), Bel Mar	Washington Numis. Soc.		Baltimore
Fourth	Carroll County		Middle River (MR)	

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What's Your Sign?

Part Fifty-Four: Elongated Coin Sets

by Simcha Kuritzky, NLG

One popular and inexpensive souvenir or good luck charm is the elongated coin, usually a U.S. cent. They even have their own club, The Elongated Collectors (TEC). So it should not come as a surprise that zodiac signs appear on elongated coins, although they started rather late and there are not many different kinds—certainly not as many Ten Commandments or so-called Lord's Prayer or Good Luck Penny designs.

The earliest set, and only one of two listed in Angelo Rosato's *Encyclopedia of the Modern Elongated*, is by Ralph Jones. These show the sign in the center flanked by two copies of the sigils, the name above in Latin and English below, and the begin and end dates on either side. While the coins shown here are rolled on wheat cents, they are also available on steel cents, wartime nickels, and silver dimes, quarters and halves. Rosato, unaware that the signs start with the spring equinox, starts listing them with Capricornus as JON-42 and ends with Sagittarius as JON-53. These were rolled in February, 1967. In August, 1967, he updated four of the designs: Capricornus fixed the date from Jan 10 to Jan 20, Pisces showed two fish instead of one, Gemini made one of the twins female, and changed Scorpio to Scorpion (JON-60 through JON-63).

In January, 1973, Bruce C. Sumner rolled his own zodiac sets, 1500 on cents and 300 on silver dimes. These use detailed line drawings so there is not much relief. Surrounding is a ring of five-pointed stars. At top is the zodiac sigil, then the Latin name, and the start date. Beneath the large figure is the end date and the sigil for the ruling planet, using the later planets Uranus for Aquarius, Neptune for Pisces, and Pluto for Scorpio. To the right of the planet sigil are the initials BCS. Rosato assigned these numbers SUM-9 through SUM-20, this time properly starting with Aries.

The next series is probably from the late 1970s. It uses figures in relief in twelve different sexual positions which I covered with medals in parts 26 through 28 of this column. These were engraved by Frank Brazzel, and his initials FB appear in the beaded border. Half the set have a vertical format, and half horizontal, as determined by the direction of the sign's

Latin name. The vertical are Aries through Virgo plus Sagittarius lacking Gemini, so the horizontals are Gemini, Libra to Pisces lacking Sagittarius.

The only other inscription are the begin and end dates. The medals these were probably based on included an adjective to describe the sexual positions. The positions here do agree with those on the medals previously described.

Frank Brazzel also created a family-friendly version of the zodiac, clearly inspired by the Sumner set. Like Sumner's, Brazzel's set shows linedraw figures with the name and sign sigil at top, with the dates and ruling planet sigil below, all in a beaded border. The differences are that both dates are below while Sumner put the begin date at top, and these figures are generally the whole animal while Sumner often just shows the animal bust. Brazzel also used a standard beaded border. This set is found on wheat cents and nickels.

In the early 2000s, I found a new set of elongateds where the sigil and starry background were enameled in black. These were all rolled on 1976-D cents, and the only wording is the Latin name of the zodiac sign.

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The last set I have is from Knott's Berry Farm amusement park near Los Angeles, California. These have a stylized design, often just the bust, with the Latin name above and dates below. The reverse has the Knott's logo.

The different sets disagree on the dates for the various signs. To fit them all in one chart, I just show the begin date for each of the twelve signs. Both Brazell sets agree with each other and with the Sumner dates. All the other sets have at least one sign different.

Zodiac Sign		Jones	BCS/FB	Enamel	Knott's
♈	Aries	Mar. 21	Mar. 21	Mar. 21	Mar. 21
♉	Taurus	Apr. 21	Apr. 20	Apr. 21	Apr. 21
♊	Gemini	May 22	May 21	May 22	May 22
♋	Cancer	June 22	June 21	June 22	June 22
♌	Leo	July 23	July 23	July 24	July 23
♍	Virgo	Aug. 24	Aug. 23	Aug. 24	Aug. 23
♎	Libra	Sept. 23	Sept. 23	Sept. 24	Sept. 24
♏	Scorpio	Oct. 23	Oct. 23	Oct. 24	Oct. 24
♐	Sagittarius	Nov. 23	Nov. 22	Nov. 23	Nov. 23
♑	Capricorn	Dec. 22	Dec. 22	Dec. 22	Dec. 22
♒	Aquarius	Jan. 21	Jan. 20	Jan. 21	Jan. 21
♓	Pisces	Feb. 20	Feb. 19	Feb. 20	Feb. 20

Maryland State Numismatic Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 13504
Silver Spring, MD 20911-3504

Dedicated to attaining knowledge and fulfillment in Numismatics

Membership Application/Renewal

Date: _____ MSNA #:_____ (for renewal)

I hereby apply for membership/renewal in the Maryland State Numismatic Association, Inc., subject to its constitution & by-laws. (Please Print)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS:_____

CITY: _____STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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☐ Tax-deductible donation to MSNA $ _____
If ANA member, please give us the ANA Number _____

The items below are only requested for original membership application:

Numismatic specialties: _____

_____

Other Numismatic Affiliations: _____

Signature: _____

Sponsor No. 1: _____

Sponsor No. 2: _____
For junior membership please include:

Guardian Signature: _____ Birth Year: _____

Fee of $15 (club), $10 (individual) or $2 (under 18) must accompany this form for calendar year dues ($5 after August 1). Life member upgrades are $300 (clubs), $200 (age 50 & under), $125 (51-65), $75 (66 & over). You must be a regular member for 3 years before attaining life membership. Pay by check, money order, or PayPal.

Maryland Coin Show Dates

All shows have free admission. Only the Whitman show does not have free parking.

8-10 June – Whitman Baltimore Summer Expo, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3.

10 June – Baltimore Stamp & Coin Show, Maryland State Fair Grounds, Mosner Miller Building, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD; 9-4.

6 Aug. – Catonsville Coin Club Show, The Lodge FOP 69, 2832 Nine Mile Circle, Catonsville, MD; 10-4.

26 Aug. – Interstate Coin Show, Elks Lodge 378, 11063 Robinhood Drive, Hagerstown, MD. Sat. 10-4.

27 Aug. – Hunt Valley Coin and Currency Show, Embassy Suites, 213 International Circle, Hunt Valley, MD; 9-4. (410) 929-8178

14 Oct. – Baltimore Stamp & Coin Show, Maryland State Fair Grounds, Mosner Miller Building, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD; 9-4.

22 Oct. – Hunt Valley Coin and Currency Show, Embassy Suites, 213 International Circle, Hunt Valley, MD; 9-4. (410) 929-8178

4 Nov. – Cambridge Coin Show, American Legion Post 91, 98 Sunburst Highway (Route 50), Cambridge, MD; 10-4.

9-11 Nov. – Whitman Baltimore Winter Expo, Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street; Thu 2-6, Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-3.

2 Dec. – Baltimore Stamp & Coin Show, Maryland State Fair Grounds, Mosner Miller Building, 2200 York Road, Timonium, MD; 9-4.

3 Dec. – Hunt Valley Coin and Currency Show, Embassy Suites, 213 International Circle, Hunt Valley, MD; 9-4. (410) 929-8178

Northern Virginia Coin Show Dates

22-23 July – Annandale Coin Show, Nova Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA; Sat 10-5, Sun. 10-4.

5-6 Aug. & 4-5 Nov. – Vienna Coin & Stamp Show, Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna, VA; Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-4.

22-24 Sep. – VNA Coin & Currency Show, Expo & Conference Center, 2371 Carl D. Silver Pkwy, Fredericksburg, VA; Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-2.

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